



# PRESS RELEASE

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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### RECORD SWEET CHERRY CROP EXPECTED IN WASHINGTON

OLYMPIA, Wash., June 9, 2006--The 2006 sweet cherry production for California, Oregon, and Washington is forecast at 245,000 tons, up 12 percent from 2005 but 2 percent below 2004. Washington's 2006 production is forecast at a record high 150,000 tons, up 9 percent from last year. Washington's cherry crop experienced a relatively mild winter in the Yakima area with some spring frost damage in the Wenatchee area. Crop development is several days behind last year. Quality and sizing are expected to be very good. The California crop, at 45,000 tons, is down 15 percent from 2005 and 38 percent below 2004. Excessive rain during bloom resulted in poor pollination. This, combined with a lack of chilling hours and an extreme freeze in February, created undesirable conditions for fruit set. Harvest is expected to peak during the first 2 weeks of June. Oregon production is forecasted to be 50,000 tons, up 79 percent from last year's small crop. Growing conditions overall have been favorable.

Production of Bartlett Pears in California, Oregon, and Washington is forecast at 440,000 tons, up 12 percent from last year but 4 percent below 2004. Washington's Bartlett crop is forecast at 185,000 tons, up 9 percent from 2005 and 8 percent above 2 years ago. Most growers report good growing conditions and have a favorable outlook on this season's crop. A good snowpack is expected to provide adequate irrigation water throughout the growing season. Scattered hail caused some crop damage but does not appear to be widespread. Oregon growers expect to harvest 60,000 tons, up 3 percent from last year but 5 percent below the 2004 Bartlett crop. Overall growing conditions have been favorable for pear production. The bloom stage progressed with few reported problems. Bartlett pears grown along the Oregon/Washington border and those grown in southern Oregon are doing better than they have in years. However, this season's precipitation is about 150 percent of normal, which has caused some disease problems, as orchardists have had difficulty applying fungicides.



## FRUIT PRODUCTION, JUNE 1, 2006

Crop & Year	Total Production		
	2004	2005	2006
<b>SWEET CHERRIES 1/:</b>	<b>Tons</b>		
California	73,000	52,700	45,000
Oregon	43,000	28,000	50,000
<b>Washington</b>	<b>134,000</b>	<b>138,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>218,700</b>	<b>245,000</b>
<b>BARTLETT PEARS:</b>			
California	223,000	164,000	195,000
Oregon	63,000	58,000	60,000
<b>Washington</b>	<b>171,000</b>	<b>170,000</b>	<b>185,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>457,000</b>	<b>392,000</b>	<b>440,000</b>
<b>APRICOTS:</b>			
California	94,000	75,500	37,000
<b>PRUNES (Dried):</b>			
California	49,000	90,000	145,000
<b>PEACHES:</b>		<b>Tons</b>	
California			
All	975,000	869,000	760,000
Clingstone 2/	539,000	484,000	380,000
Freestone	436,000	385,000	380,000
Georgia	52,500	40,000	50,000
South Carolina	70,000	75,000	60,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,097,500</b>	<b>984,000</b>	<b>870,000</b>

1/ The first production forecast for sweet cherries in ID, MI, NY, and UT and tart cherries in MI, NY, OR, PA, UT, WA, and WI will be published in the "Cherry Production" report released on June 22, 2006.

2/ California Clingstone peaches is over-the-scale tonnage and includes culls and cannery diversions.

To access the entire release, including the complete narrative and tables point to  
[http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Washington/Current\\_News\\_Release/cherpear.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington/Current_News_Release/cherpear.pdf)

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